

B.T.U.

BROWARD TEACHERS UNION

3-923

February 28, 1992

Docket Officer
Docket No. H-122
Room N-2625
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

OSHA
DOCKET OFFICER
FEB 27 1992
DATE _____
TIME _____

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the Broward Teachers Union, I am pleased to respond to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) request for information on workplace indoor air quality. I represent 10,000 teachers in Broward County, Florida with members in 200 work sites

Poor indoor air quality in the workplace is a serious problem that need to be dealt with. Without a doubt, it effects the health and well-being of many of our members as well as their students.

When there are inadequate amounts of fresh air, the classrooms become "stuffy." This causes the teachers and students to become tired and in some classes provokes chronic headaches and sinus difficulties. We have seen the presence of molds, spores and chemicals contribute to the problem and it can lead to allergic reactions and fainting spells. Many members have complained that they felt markedly better after leaving the building and felt unhealthy symptoms when returning to work.

Some buildings in the county were built in the 1970's and have windows that do not open. Thus, the ventilation in the school is mechanized and not always responsive to temperature changes.

We receive continuous complaints of poor indoor air quality in the following schools: Apollo Middle School in Hollywood, Sunrise Middle School and Rogers Middle School in Ft. Lauderdale, Plantation High School in Plantation, Cypress Elementary in Pompano Beach, Flamingo Elementary in Davie and Forest Hills Elementary in Coral Springs. Teachers in each of these schools have experienced problems and complain of the district's unresponsiveness in handling their complaints.

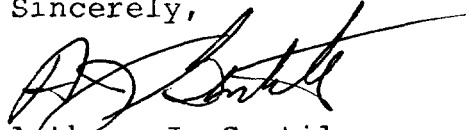
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Affiliated with Florida Education Association/United, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

I would estimate that in the last several years, I have received three times the number of complaints of indoor air quality, much of it resulting from renovation. I am certain that better ventilation and more air will improve the situation.

OSHA can help tremendously by establishing ventilation standards. The general health and well-being of my members and their pupils depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AJG Gentile', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony J. Gentile
President

AJG/jk